

REMARKS

Claim 1 has been amended. New claims 12 and 13 have been added. Claims 1 through 13 remain in the application. A marked up copy of the amended claim is attached hereto as Appendix A.

Claims 1 through 5 and 7 through 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Miller (U.S. Patent No. 4,691,958). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

U.S. Patent No. 4,691,958 to Miller discloses a door stop and latch. A latch mechanism 10 is particularly adapted for use in conjunction with a recreational vehicle such as a motor home or travel trailer, which has a side wall 12 and an access door 14. The door 14 spans a door framed opening formed by a header 16, threshold 18, and jambs 20 and 22, and is connected to the jamb 22 by a hinge 24, which allows the door 14 to be pivoted between open and closed positions. The door 14 includes a peripheral frame 25 and an overlying sheeting or skin 26 to define a hollow interior 28. A slot 29 is formed in the skin 26, which provides access to the interior. Miller does not disclose a passageway located adjacent a floor and longitudinally between at least one front wheel and at least one rear wheel and extending transversely between the interior and an exterior of the motor vehicle for loading and unloading items through the passageway with the passageway having a width thereof at least equal to a height thereof.

In contradistinction, claim 1, as amended, clarifies the invention claimed as a motor vehicle including a vehicle body extending longitudinally and having sides, a floor, and a roof defining an interior. The motor vehicle also includes at least one front wheel operatively connected to the vehicle body and at least one rear wheel operatively connected to the vehicle body. The motor vehicle includes a passageway located adjacent the floor and longitudinally between the at least one front wheel and the at least one rear wheel and extending transversely

between the interior and an exterior of the motor vehicle for loading and unloading items through the passageway. The passageway has a width thereof at least equal to a height thereof. The motor vehicle further includes a door connected to the vehicle body between the interior and the exterior to open and close the passageway.

Miller '958 does not disclose or anticipate the claimed invention of claim 1. Specifically, Miller '958 merely discloses a door stop and latch in which a motor home or travel trailer has a side wall and an access door. Miller '958 lacks a passageway located adjacent a floor and longitudinally between at least one front wheel and at least one rear wheel and extending transversely between the interior and an exterior of the motor vehicle for loading and unloading items through the passageway with the passageway having a width thereof at least equal to a height thereof. In Miller '958, the passageway for the access door 14 has a height greater than a width because the passageway of Miller '958 allows people to enter and exit, whereas the passageway of the present invention is not for people to enter and exit, but for items such as groceries to pass therethrough. Miller '958 does not disclose the combination of a motor vehicle including a passageway located adjacent a floor and longitudinally between at least one front wheel and at least one rear wheel and extending transversely between the interior and an exterior of the motor vehicle for loading and unloading items through the passageway with the passageway having a width thereof at least equal to a height thereof as claimed by Applicant. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 and the claims dependent therefrom are allowable over the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

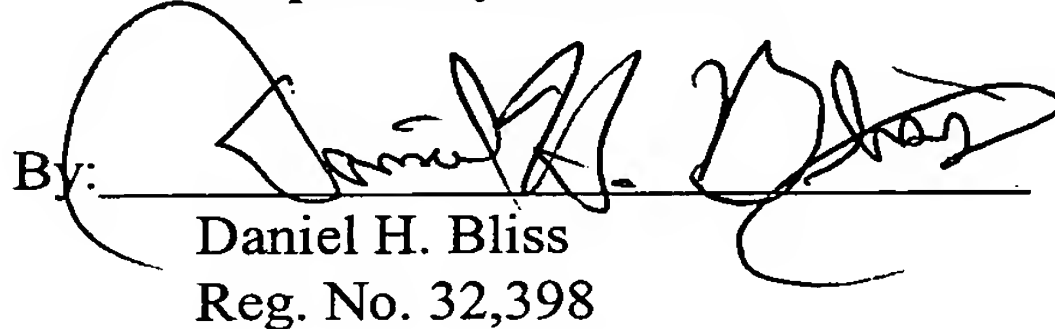
Claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Miller '958. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection for the same reasons given above to claim 1.

New claims 12 and 13 have been added to more particularly claim the present invention. New claim 12 claims a square passageway as shown in the drawing in FIG. 2 of the

present application. Miller '958 discloses a rectangular, but not a square passageway, because the passageway of Miller '958 allows people to enter and exit, whereas the passageway of the present invention is not for people to enter and exit. New claim 13 claims the passageway as having a width less than two feet and a height less than two feet. Miller '958 discloses a passageway having a height greater than a width because the passageway of Miller '958 allows people to enter and exit, whereas the passageway of the present invention is not for people to enter and exit. It is respectfully submitted that new claims 12 and 13 are also allowable over the art of record.

Based on the above, it is respectfully submitted that the claims are in a condition for allowance, which allowance is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX A**VERSION OF THE CLAIM WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW THE CHANGES**

Please amend claim 1 as follows:

1. (AMENDED) A motor vehicle comprising:

a vehicle body extending longitudinally and having sides, a floor, and a roof defining an interior;

at least one front wheel operatively connected to said vehicle body;

at least one rear wheel operatively connected to said vehicle body;

a passageway located adjacent said floor and longitudinally between said at least one front wheel and said at least one rear wheel and extending transversely between said interior and an exterior of the motor vehicle for loading and unloading items through said passageway, said passageway having a width thereof at least equal to a height thereof [on said floor]; and

a door connected to said vehicle body between said interior and the exterior to open and close said passageway.